

REMARKS

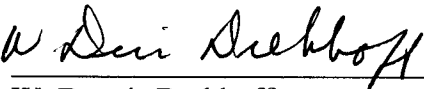
Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

The amendment of the claims showing the status thereof is made at the Examiner's request in the Notice of Noncompliant Amendment. Applicant believes that request for the status of claims is premature. On November 20, 2006, a Restriction Requirement was mailed. A Response to the requirement was mailed on January 22, 2007, wherein the claims encompassing Group I, as defined by the Examiner, were elected. Those claims were identified as 1-20. An amendment to the claims was not made at the time of the filing of the response to the Restriction Requirement because there was not indication that the election, or the identified claims, would be accepted by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that the claims are now ready for examination and define patentable subject matter. If the Examiner has questions about the claims, please contact the below listed attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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